

MEMBER CENTER: [Create Account](#) | [Log In](#)[SITE SEARCH](#)[WEB SEARCH BY Google™](#)[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [WEATHER](#) [STORY LINKS](#) [SPORTS](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [MARKETPLACE](#) [PROGRAMMING](#) [DTV](#) [LIFESTYLE](#) [CONTACT US](#)[Email](#) [Print](#)

## Students Make Final Plea to Keep Adult Ed Open

*Posted:**Updated:*

4-21-10

SANTA MARIA -

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District is closing it's Adult Education program this June because of budget cuts.

Dozens of students, teachers and community members crashed Wednesday's board meeting and pleaded board members to find funding to keep the adult education program open.

"I'm here tonight to ask you to reconsider your decision to close down the adult education program," said a 25-year teacher for the program.

It was an emotional and final plea to district board members to save Santa Maria's adult education program.

"Seeing how much I needed it, I figured I had to get my voice out there and let them know there's other people who still need to achieve the same goal, and get their high school diploma," said Jose Gonzalez, a graduate of the program.

For the past 30 years, Delta High School has helped 1,100 adults a year pursue the American dream.

"They were not given the opportunity to graduate the first time, and this is their second chance," said Georgianna Hernandez, who works at the school. "Life handed them things that were hard to deal with so they weren't able to graduate, but they were able to come back and get their life on track."

The program offers an education where students can get one-on-one help from a teacher and earn a high school diploma at their own pace, sometimes while juggling a job and family.

"It helps turn their lives around and so they do something creative, instead of just being stuck," said David Holden, a 44-year-old student.

But with the district's 4.3 million dollar budget shortfall, and no support from the state, the program has no other choice but to shut down at the end of this school year.

"Nobody is unscathed in these budget cuts, they're very deep in funding resources, and reductions have been very vast," said Superintendent Doug Kimberly. "So we have to do the best we can until there's a change in the economic light."

Students will have to go to school in Lompoc or Arroyo Grande, or get their GED from Allan Hancock College.

1 vote

### Comments

**Terms of Use:** We welcome your participation in our community. Please keep your comments civil and on point. You must be at least 13 years of age to post comments. By submitting a comment, you agree to these Terms of Service

[Leave a comment](#)

Echo 0 Items

[Admin](#)

Social Networking by

### From the Lifestyle Channels



- What's cooking now?
- Today's Top Health Story
- Today's Top Money Story
- Top Entertainment News
- Watch these VideoBytes

4/27/2010

## Students Make Final Plea to Keep Adul...



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2010 WorldNow and KCOY. All Rights Reserved.  
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).